

## Decision 46/107: International trade and economic globalization statistics

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Appreciated the report on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization and congratulated the Friends of the Chair group for its work accomplished;
- (b) Agreed with the proposal of the FOC group to draft a handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts as the measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization, while:
  - (i) building on work accomplished on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization by others, including the work undertaken under auspices of the Eurostat, OECD and UNECE;
  - (ii) addressing the use of micro-data related to businesses, including administrative data, and their links to international trade data, as well as the issue of sharing micro- data among countries, including legal frameworks and potential problems of data confidentiality;
  - (iii) addressing the integration of economic, environmental and social dimensions of trade and globalization extending on the SNA and SEEA; and
  - (iv) taking into account the different levels of sophistication of national statistical systems and the need to attain an adequate balance between user needs and the work and costs related to these statistics;
- (c) Endorsed the establishment of an expert group tasked with the development of the handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts; proposed that this group be a continuation of the FOC group with the option for other countries to join, while balancing the geographical representation ; and requested that the terms of reference of the expert group is established with a clear mandate, timetable and list of deliverables, so that appropriate momentum of the work of the group would be maintained;
- (d) Further agreed with the proposed programme of work for the measurement of international trade and globalization, namely:
  - (i) promoting and advancing the creation of a global enterprise group register, building on and taking into account lessons learned from the ongoing EuroGroups Register project;
  - (ii) improving the measurement of firm heterogeneity based on alternative aggregations of micro-data and by further developing a classification of business functions, while cautioning against any change in the ISIC classification;
  - (iii) addressing asymmetries in bilateral trade and foreign direct investment while building on work already undertaken in several countries and coordinating this effort with work already being done by the OECD;
  - (iv) mainstreaming the development of recurrent global supply-use and input-output tables as undertaken by the OECD in collaboration with other regional and international organizations, with the aim of increasing the coverage of the OECD-WTO database on trade in value-added;

- (e) Agreed with the proposal to establish an Inter-secretariat working group for international trade and economic globalization statistics with the request to develop a mandate that includes:
- (i) the coordination of work undertaken by the various international and regional organizations in this field, while ensuring proper co-operation regarding work programs and activities worldwide, taking account of existing work and reducing duplication;
  - (ii) the promotion of the development of databases at international, regional and national level for international trade and economic globalization statistics; and
  - (iii) the coordination and promotion of capacity building activities to improve these statistics at micro-level for the better calculation of statistics at the macro-level.